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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/IB99/01619</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 4 October 1999 (04.10.99)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data:</p> <table> <tr> <td>9823192.1</td> <td>23 October 1998 (23.10.98)</td> <td>GB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9826392.4</td> <td>27 October 1998 (27.10.98)</td> <td>GB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9825117.6</td> <td>16 November 1998 (16.11.98)</td> <td>GB</td> </tr> </table> <p>(71) Applicant (<i>for all designated States except GB JP US</i>): PFIZER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, N.V./S.A. [BE/IE]; La Touche House, International Financial Services Centre, Dublin 1 (IE).</p> <p>(71) Applicant (<i>for JP only</i>): PFIZER INC. [US/US]; 235 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017 (US).</p> <p>(71) Applicant (<i>for GB only</i>): PFIZER LIMITED [GB/GB]; Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9NJ (GB).</p> <p>(72) Inventors; and</p> <p>(75) Inventors/Applicants (<i>for US only</i>): KING, Elizabeth [GB/GB]; Pfizer Central Research, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9NJ (GB). MACRAE, Ross, James [GB/GB]; Pfizer Central Research, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9NJ (GB).</p>		9823192.1	23 October 1998 (23.10.98)	GB	9826392.4	27 October 1998 (27.10.98)	GB	9825117.6	16 November 1998 (16.11.98)	GB	<p>(74) Agent: SPIEGEL, Allen, J.; Pfizer Inc., 235 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017 (US).</p> <p>(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report.</i></p>	
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<p>(54) Title: CONTROLLED-RELEASE PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULATIONS CONTAINING A cGMP PDE-5 INHIBITOR</p> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>The invention provides controlled-release formulations for oral administration containing a cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor. The formulations are useful, <i>inter alia</i>, in the treatment or prevention of sexual dysfunction.</p>												

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CONTROLLED-RELEASE PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULATIONS CONTAINING A cGMP PDE-5 INHIBITOR

This invention relates to controlled-release oral pharmaceutical formulations of cGMP PDE-5 inhibitors, and to methods of treatment involving them.

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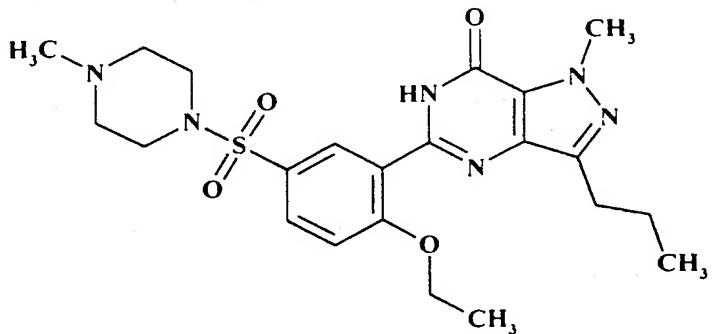
Controlled-release oral pharmaceutical formulations are known. Their purpose is to modify the rate of drug release, for example to produce a constant rate of release of a drug into the gastrointestinal tract of a patient, or to delay the release of a drug into the gastrointestinal tract of a patient (see 'Sustained and Controlled Release Drug Delivery Systems', pp 3-6, edited by J R Robinson, published by Marcel Dekker Inc).

10 Cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterases (PDEs) are a family of enzymes that catalyse the degradation of cyclic nucleotides. Cyclic nucleotides, particularly cAMP (i.e. cyclic adenosine 3',5'-monophosphate), are important intracellular second messengers. PDEs are one cellular component that regulates the concentration of cyclic nucleotides. In recent years, at least seven PDE enzymes (such as PDE-1 - PDE-7), as well as many subtypes of these enzymes, have been defined based on substrate affinity and cofactor requirements (J A Beavo and D H Reifsnyder, Trends Pharmacol Sci 11:150 [1990]; and J Beavo, in 'Cyclic Nucleotide Phosphodiesterases: Structure, Regulation and Drug Action', (Editors J 15 Beavo and M D Housley), Wiley, Chichester, pp. 3-15 [1990]).

20 PDE-5 is a cGMP (i.e. cyclic guanosine 3',5'-monophosphate) specific PDE. It has been shown that PDE-5 is an important enzyme in regulating the physiological response to sexual stimulation, and that inhibitors of the enzyme are useful in the treatment of sexual dysfunction.

25 In males, sexual dysfunction may be defined as the inability to obtain or sustain a penile erection adequate for satisfactory sexual intercourse. In females, sexual dysfunction may be defined as deficient physiological response to sexual stimulation and/or a deficient subjective feeling of arousal.

A cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor of particular interest is sildenafil {5-[2-ethoxy-5-(4-methyl-1-piperazinylsulphonyl)phenyl]-1,6-dihydro-1-methyl-3-propylpyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one}, which has the following structure:



5 The compound was first disclosed in European Patent Application 463756, and its use in
the treatment of sexual dysfunction was disclosed in International Patent Application WO
94/28902. A formulation of the citrate salt (VIAGRATM) was made available for the
treatment of male erectile dysfunction in a number of countries including the USA in 1998.
10 VIAGRATM is an immediate release tablet that is administered about 1 hour before an
effect is required, and the half-life of the drug in human plasma is about 4 hours after
administration.

The main interest in the art so far has been to provide a fast-acting treatment of sexual dysfunction, which can provide an effect as soon as possible after administration. For
15 example, International Patent Application WO 98/30209 discloses a rapidly releasing formulation of sildenafil citrate.

International Patent Application WO 97/18814 discloses controlled-release pharmaceutical formulations for oral administration consisting essentially of an active ingredient, low
20 molecular weight polyethylene oxide, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, tabletting excipients, and optionally one or more enteric polymers. It is suggested therein that sildenafil could be delivered using the disclosed formulations. However, the advantages given below for controlled-release formulations of cGMP PDE-5 inhibitors were not mentioned.

25

International Patent Application WO 98/48781 (published on 5 November 1998, after the priority date of the present application) discloses compositions providing "relatively slow

"release" of compounds including apomorphine (which is not a cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor). The formulations are indicated in the treatment of sexual dysfunction.

According to the present invention, there is provided a controlled-release formulation for
5 oral administration containing a cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor; provided that the formulation does not consist essentially of sildenafil, low molecular weight polyethylene oxide, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, tabletting excipients, and optionally one or more enteric polymers.

10 Usually, formulations according to the invention will be tablets or capsules that are swallowed. However, the invention also includes buccal formulations (which may be tablets, ointments, gels or patches).

15 Controlled-release formulations may be divided into sustained-release and pulsatile-release formulations (also known as delayed-release formulations). In general, such formulations are known to those skilled in the art or are available using conventional methods.

20 **Sustained-release** dosage forms release their active ingredient into the gastro-intestinal tract of a patient over a sustained period of time following administration of the dosage form to the patient. Particular dosage forms include:

- (a) those in which the active ingredient is embedded in a matrix from which it is released by diffusion or erosion (see Example 1 below);
- (b) those in which the active ingredient is present in a core which is coated with a 25 release rate-controlling membrane (see Example 3 below);
- (c) those in which the active ingredient is present in a core provided with an outer coating impermeable to the active ingredient, the outer coating having an aperture (which may be drilled) for release of the active ingredient;
- (d) those in which the active ingredient is released through a semi-permeable 30 membrane, allowing the drug to diffuse across the membrane or through liquid filled pores within the membrane; and
- (e) those in which the active ingredient is present as an ion exchange complex.

The dosage forms mentioned in (a), (b) and (c) above are of particular interest.

When several cores are present, for example coated cores in the dosage forms mentioned in (b) and (c), such formulations are sometimes referred to as "multiparticulates".

5 It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that some of the above means of achieving sustained-release may be combined, for example a matrix containing the active compound may be formed into a multiparticulate and/or coated with an impermeable coating provided with an aperture.

10 **Pulsatile-release** formulations release the active compound after a sustained period of time following administration of the dosage form to the patient. The release may then be in the form of immediate- or sustained-release. This delay may be achieved by releasing the drug at particular points in the gastro-intestinal tract or by releasing drug after a pre-determined time. Pulsed-release formulations may be in the form of tablets or multiparticulates or a combination of both. Particular dosage forms include:

15

1. osmotic potential triggered release (see US patent no 3.952.741);
2. compression coated two layer tablets (see US patent no. 5.464.633);
3. capsules containing an erodible plug (see US patent no 5,474,784);
- 20 4. sigmoidal releasing pellets (referred to in US patent no 5.112.621); and
5. formulations coated with or containing pH-dependent polymers including shellac, phthalate derivatives, polyacrylic acid derivatives and crotonic acid copolymers.

25 **Dual release** formulations can combine the active ingredient in immediate release form with additional active ingredient in controlled-release form. For example, a bilayer tablet can be formed with one layer containing immediate release active ingredient and the other layer containing the active ingredient embedded in a matrix from which it is released by diffusion or erosion. Alternatively, one or more immediate release beads can be combined with one or more beads which are coated with a release rate-controlling membrane in a capsule to give a dual release formulation. Sustained release formulations in which the active ingredient is present in a core provided with an outer coating impermeable to the active ingredient, the outer coating having an aperture (which may be drilled) for release of the active ingredient, can be coated with drug in immediate release form to give a dual release formulation. Dual release formulations can also combine drug in immediate

30

release form with additional drug in pulsed release form. For example, a capsule containing an erodible plug could liberate drug initially and after a predetermined period of time further drug in immediate- or sustained-release form.

5 Thus, according to the invention, there is further provided a dual release formulation for oral administration having a first portion comprising a controlled-release formulation as defined above, but without proviso, and a second portion comprising a cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor in immediate release form. The invention also provides products containing a controlled-release formulation as defined above, but without proviso, and a cGMP PDE-5
10 inhibitor in immediate release form, as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment or prevention of sexual dysfunction.

Preferably, formulations according to the present invention are sustained-release formulations. For example, it is preferred that up to 75% by weight of the active ingredient
15 is released from the formulation into the gastrointestinal tract (or in a model of the GI tract) after a period of time in the range 1-24 hours following administration, for example 6-18 hours. A suitable model of the GI tract is described in Example 2 below.

Dual release formulations as defined above are also of particular interest. It is preferred
20 that the first portion of such formulations is a sustained-release formulation

An advantage of controlled-release, particularly sustained-release formulations according to the present invention is that a patient receiving them would have improved sexual function for a sustained period of time following administration (such as 6-24 hours, for
25 example 12-18 hours), and so be ready for sexual activity at almost any time. This would allow a more spontaneous sex-life to be pursued.

In addition, it is thought that in male patients at risk of developing sexual dysfunction (for example diabetic patients or patients having undergone nerve sparing radical
30 prostatectomy), the prevalence of nocturnal erections is diminished. Nocturnal erections may play an important role in preserving normal erectile function by providing regular tissue oxygenation thus preventing tissue fibrosis and erectile degeneration. Thus, a cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor delivered to a patient during sleep will increase the ability of at-risk individuals to have nocturnal erections, increase tissue oxygenation, prevent penile fibrosis

and thus preserve erectile function or slow its decline. Controlled-release formulations may be of particular use in this instance, providing cGMP PDE-5 inhibition throughout the sleeping period.

5 A further advantage of formulations according to the present invention is that side effects may be reduced. For example, although sildenafil offers a safe, effective and generally very well tolerated oral treatment for male erectile dysfunction, dose-related reversible side effects such as headache or visual disturbance at high dosage may limit its use in a minority of patients. Such effects are mediated by systemic exposure to sildenafil
10 following oral administration; thus a formulation with a sustained release profile, which avoids initial high plasma concentrations, could be of great value to these patients.

Preferably, the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor is sildenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof (such as the citrate salt).

15 Other cGMP PDE-5 inhibitors (previously mentioned in WO 94/28902) that may be mentioned include:

5-(2-ethoxy-5-morpholinoacetylphenyl)-1-methyl-3-n-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one;
20 5-(5-morpholinoacetyl-2-n-propoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-3-n-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one;
5-[2-allyloxy-5-(4-methyl-1-piperazinylsulphonyl)phenyl]-1-methyl-3-n-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one;
25 5-{2-ethoxy-5-[4-(2-propyl)-1-piperazinylsulphonyl]phenyl}-1-methyl-3-n-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one;
5-{2-ethoxy-5-[4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylsulphonyl]phenyl}-1-methyl-3-n-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one;
30 5-{5-[4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylsulphonyl]-2-n-propoxyphenyl}-1-methyl-3-n-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one;
5-[2-ethoxy-5-(4-methyl-1-piperazinylcarbonyl)phenyl]-1-methyl-3-n-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one; and
5-[2-ethoxy-5-(1-methyl-2-imidazolyl)phenyl]-1-methyl-3-n-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one.

The following cGMP PDE-5 inhibitors (previously mentioned in WO 97/03675 to Laboratoire Glaxo Wellcome SA) may also be mentioned:

(6R,12aR)-2,3,6,7,12,12a-hexahydro-2-methyl-6-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-pyrazino[2',1':6,1]pyrido[3,4-b]indole-1,4-dione; and

5 (3S,6R,12aR)-2,3,6,7,12,12a-hexahydro-2,3-dimethyl-6-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-pyrazino[2',1':6,1]pyrido[3,4-b]indole-1,4-dione.

When the formulation includes a matrix in which the active ingredient is embedded (such as a matrix tablet), it preferably contains hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose. Preferably, the 10 hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose has a number average molecular weight in the range 80,000-250,000. Preferably, the hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose has a degree of methyl substitution in the range 19-30%. Preferably, the hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose has a degree of hydroxy substitution in the range 7-12%. A number of hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose polymers are available commercially under the brand name Methocel™, and 15 some of those suitable for use in formulations according to the invention are given in the table below:

Methocel™ grade	Number average MW	Degree of methyl substitution	Degree of hydroxy substitution	Nominal viscosity of a 2% aqueous solution	USP designation
K4M	89000	19-24%	7-12%	4000cps	2208
K15M	125000	"	"	15000cps	"
K100M	215000	"	"	100000cps	"
E4M	93000	28-30%	7-12%	4000cps	2910
E10M	113000	"	"	10000cps	"
F4M	90000	27-30%	4-7.5%	4000cps	2906

Methocel™ K4M has characteristics of particular interest.

20

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose may consist of molecules of different chain lengths, but that the average chain length gives a molecular weight in the range stated.

Matrix formulations according to the present invention may contain a buffering agent. This is particularly useful when the formulation contains sildenafil citrate. A buffering agent of particular interest is aspartic acid. When it forms part of a matrix tablet, aspartic acid acts as a buffering agent to maintain a low pH at the surface of the tablet. Because sildenafil citrate has a low solubility at pH values greater than 6, the acid keeps the drug relatively soluble during the transit of the tablet through the GI tract. When present, aspartic acid will typically make up 15-30% by weight of the formulation.

10 The formulations of the present invention may include tabletting excipients, for example colloidal anhydrous silica, polyvinylpyrrolidone, lactose and magnesium stearate. Lactose is of particular interest, and when present it will typically make up 10-40% by weight of the formulation.

15 Formulations according to the invention may be provided additionally with a cosmetic coating: for example a coating comprising a pigment, a plasticizer and a polymer such as OPADRY™ (manufactured by Colorcon), or a sugar coating. Such coatings do not substantially affect the performance of the formulation, but enhance its presentation. Such coatings may be applied by spraying tablet cores with a solution of the components, using conventional techniques.

Preferably, in matrix formulations according to the present invention, the hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose makes up 10-50% by weight of the formulation.

25 When the formulation has a core comprising the active ingredient which is coated with a release rate-controlling membrane, it is preferred that several such coated cores are present (i.e. the formulation is multiparticulate). For example, 100 or more coated cores may be filled into a capsule. Preferably, the core also includes a buffering agent (such as succinic acid). The release rate-controlling membrane may comprise an ammonio methacrylate copolymer and a plasticizer.

30 Preferably, in formulations according to the present invention, the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor makes up 5-50% by weight of the formulation.

Preferably, in formulations according to the present invention, the rate at which the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor is released therefrom is substantially independent of the pH of the surroundings.

5 The present invention also provides processes for the production of the sustained release pharmaceutical formulations set out in (a), (b) and (c) above, which include the steps of:

- (a) mixing the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor with a matrix material, and pressing into tablets;
- (b) forming a core comprising the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor and then coating the core with a release rate-controlling membrane; or
- 10 (c) forming a core containing the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor and then coating the core with a coating impermeable to the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor;

respectively.

The invention further provides the use of a cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor in the manufacture of a
15 formulation for the treatment or prevention of sexual dysfunction: characterized in that, following administration, the formulation releases the inhibitor over or after a sustained period of time. Consequently, following administration, the mammal's sexual function will be substantially improved for or after a sustained period of time.

20 Usually, the mammal will be a human, but administration to other mammals, such as horses, is contemplated.

A "sustained period of time" in relation to the improvement in sexual function is a period of time such as 6-24 hours, for example 12-18 hours.

25 It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the formulations of the present application may also be administered to patients suffering from or at risk of suffering from disorders other than sexual dysfunction, but in which cGMP PDE-5 inhibitors may be useful therapeutically.

30 The invention further provides a method of treating or preventing sexual dysfunction, which comprises administering a controlled-release formulation of a cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor, as defined above, but without proviso, to a mammal in need of such treatment or

prevention. Consequently, the mammal's sexual function is substantially improved for or after a sustained period of time.

The invention further provides a method of improving sexual function in a mammal (not suffering from sexual dysfunction), which comprises administering a controlled-release formulation of a cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor, as defined above, but without proviso, to the mammal. Consequently, the mammal's sexual function is substantially improved for or after a sustained period of time.

10 The invention further provides a method of increasing the probability of a nocturnal erection in a male mammal, which comprises administering a controlled-release formulation, as defined above, but without proviso, to the male mammal.

15 Formulations according to the invention will usually be administered once a day, or possibly twice a day. The total daily dosage of a cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor (such as sildenafil citrate) is usually in the range 25-400 mg, preferably 50-200 mg. Thus, a once daily formulation according to the invention will usually contain 25-400 mg of drug substance (such as sildenafil citrate), preferably 50-200 mg.

20 The invention is illustrated by the following examples with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which Figure 1 shows the percentage of drug compound released v time from a formulation prepared according to Example 1 under three different pH conditions.

Example 1

Sustained release matrix formulation of sildenafil citrate

Component	Weight per 450mg matrix tablet (mg)
Sildenafil citrate	144.72 ^a
L-Aspartic acid	100
Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose ^b	67.5 (15%)
Lactose ^c	133.28
Magnesium Stearate	4.5

^a Drug equivalent to 100mg active substance based on actual activity of 69.1%.

^b MethocelTM grade K4M

^c Lactose fastflo

5 Method

1. Blend components, less magnesium stearate, for 10 minutes in a turbula
2. Screen through a 500µm sieve
3. Add 26% water (by weight) with blending
4. Screen through a 1.7mm sieve
- 10 5. Dry resulting granules in a vacuum oven at 40°C, 2070 kPa (300 psi) until the moisture level is returned to original value
6. Screen through a 1.0mm sieve
7. Add magnesium stearate and blend for 5 minutes
8. Press into tablets using 11mm normal concave tablet tooling

15

Example 2

Dissolution studies

Formulations prepared in Example 1 were dissolved using Apparatus 1 (baskets) described
20 in United States Pharmacopeia 23 (1995), page 1791, in an aqueous buffer of pH 2 (composition 0.01M HCl and 0.12M NaCl), an aqueous buffer of pH 4.5 (composition 0.06M KCl, 0.03M NaCl and 0.006M KH₂PO₄) and in an aqueous buffer of pH 7.5 (composition 0.06M KCl, 0.03M NaCl, 0.006M KH₂PO₄ and 0.005M NaOH). The dissolution fluid volume was 1 l in the case of pH 2 and pH 4.5, but 5 l in the case of pH
25 7.5 (also replaced periodically), the temperature was 37°C, the rotation speed of the baskets was 100 rpm, and the drug compound released was detected by UV spectroscopy. The percentage of drug compound released v time is shown in Figure 1.

It can be seen that the release profiles at the three pH values are almost identical, indicating
30 that the formulation is likely to give a steady, sustained rate of release of drug over a sustained period of time when administered orally to a patient.

Example 3

Sustained-release coated multiparticulate core formulation of sildenafl citrate

The formulation is prepared by applying a polymer coat onto core beads. These are then encapsulated.

5

Step 1: Preparation of multiparticulate cores

Ingredient	Composition	
		mg/50mg dose
Sildenafil citrate	71.9 ^a	
Microcrystalline cellulose ^b	73.5	
Lactose ^c	73.5	
Succinic acid	93.8	
(Water) ^d	(109.5)	
Total:		312.7

^a Drug equivalent to 50mg active substance based on theoretical activity of 69.5%.

10 ^b Avicel™ PH101.

^c Lactose fastflo.

^d Removed during drying. Quantity varied with batch size.

All of the dry ingredients are blended together in a Turbula blender for 20 minutes. The
15 mixture is then screened using a 500 µm (30 mesh) screen followed by reblending for a further 20 minutes. Wet granulation is performed in a planetary mixer by carefully adding water to the mixture while continuously blending at a low speed. Cores are produced from the wet granules by a conventional extrusion and spheronisation process. The formed cores are then dried in a standard fluidised-bed drier.

20

Step 2: Coating of multiparticulate cores

Ingredient	Composition	
	mg/50 mg dose	
Cores from step 1	312.7	
Ammonio methacrylate copolymer type B ^a	31.27	
Ammonio methacrylate copolymer type A ^b	7.82	
Triethyl citrate	7.82	
Talc	19.55	
(Water) ^d	(332.3)	
Total:	379.16	

^a EudragitTM RS 30 D.

^b EudragitTM RL 30 D.

5 To prepare the coating, all of the ingredients except the active cores are mixed together to form a uniform dispersion. The mixture is applied to the cores by a conventional fluidised-bed spray coating technique to give the final coated cores. Typically, these coated cores may then be cured at 40°C for 18 hours. They are then filled into gelatin capsule shells using conventional encapsulating equipment.

Claims:

1. A controlled-release formulation for oral administration containing a cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor; provided that the formulation does not consist essentially of sildenafil, low molecular weight polyethylene oxide, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, tabletting excipients, and optionally one or more enteric polymers.
2. A formulation as claimed in claim 1, which is a sustained-release formulation.
3. A formulation as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein up to 75% by weight of the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor is released from the formulation into the gastrointestinal tract after 10 a period of time in the range 1-24 hours following administration.
4. A formulation as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor is embedded in a matrix from which it is released by diffusion or erosion.
5. A formulation as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor is present in a core which is coated with a release rate-controlling membrane.
15. 6. A formulation as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 4, which comprises a core containing the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor and an outer coating impermeable to the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor, the outer coating having an aperture for release of the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor.
7. A formulation as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cGMP 20 PDE-5 inhibitor is sildenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
8. A formulation as claimed in claim 7, wherein the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor is sildenafil citrate.
9. A formulation as claimed in claim 4, which also contains hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose.
25. 10. A formulation as claimed in claim 4 or claim 9, which also contains a buffering agent.
11. A formulation as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose has a number average molecular weight in the range 80,000-250,000.
12. A formulation as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the 30 hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose has a degree of methyl substitution in the range 19-30%.
13. A formulation as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 12, wherein the hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose has a degree of hydroxy substitution in the range 7-12%.
14. A formulation as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 13, wherein the hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose makes up 10-50% by weight of the formulation.

15. A formulation as claimed in claim 5, wherein a multiplicity of coated cores is present.
16. A formulation as claimed in claim 15, wherein the core also includes a buffering agent.
- 5 17. A formulation as claimed in claim 5, claim 15 or claim 16, wherein the release rate-controlling membrane comprises an ammonio methacrylate copolymer and a plasticizer.
18. A formulation as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, which is provided with a cosmetic coating.
19. A formulation as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor makes up 5-50% by weight of the formulation.
- 10 20. A formulation as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the rate at which the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor is released therefrom is substantially independent of the pH of the surroundings.
- 15 21. A process for the production of a formulation as defined in claim 4, claim 5 or claim 6, which includes the steps of:
 - (a) mixing the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor with a matrix material, and pressing into tablets;
 - (b) forming a core comprising the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor and then coating the core with a release rate-controlling membrane; or
 - (c) forming a core containing the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor and then coating the core with a coating impermeable to the cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor;
- 20 respectively.
22. Use of a cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor in the manufacture of a formulation for the treatment or prevention of sexual dysfunction; characterized in that, following administration, the formulation releases the inhibitor over or after a sustained period of time.
- 25 23. The use of claim 22, characterized in that, following administration, the mammal's sexual function is substantially improved for or after a sustained period of time.
24. A method of treating or preventing sexual dysfunction, which comprises administering a controlled-release formulation, as defined in claim 1, but without proviso, to a mammal in need of such treatment or prevention.
- 30 25. The method of claim 24, characterized in that, following administration, the mammal's sexual function is substantially improved for or after a sustained period of time.

26. A method of improving sexual function in a mammal, which comprises administering a controlled-release formulation, as defined in claim 1, but without proviso, to the mammal.

27. The method of claim 26, characterized in that, following administration, the 5 mammal's sexual function is substantially improved for or after a sustained period of time.

28. A method of increasing the probability of a nocturnal erection in a male mammal, which comprises administering a controlled-release formulation, as defined in claim 1, but without proviso, to the male mammal.

29. A dual release formulation for oral administration having a first portion comprising 10 a controlled-release formulation as defined in claim 1, but without proviso, and a second portion comprising a cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor in immediate release form.

30. Products containing a controlled-release formulation as defined in claim 1, but without proviso, and a cGMP PDE-5 inhibitor in immediate release form, as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment or prevention of 15 sexual dysfunction.

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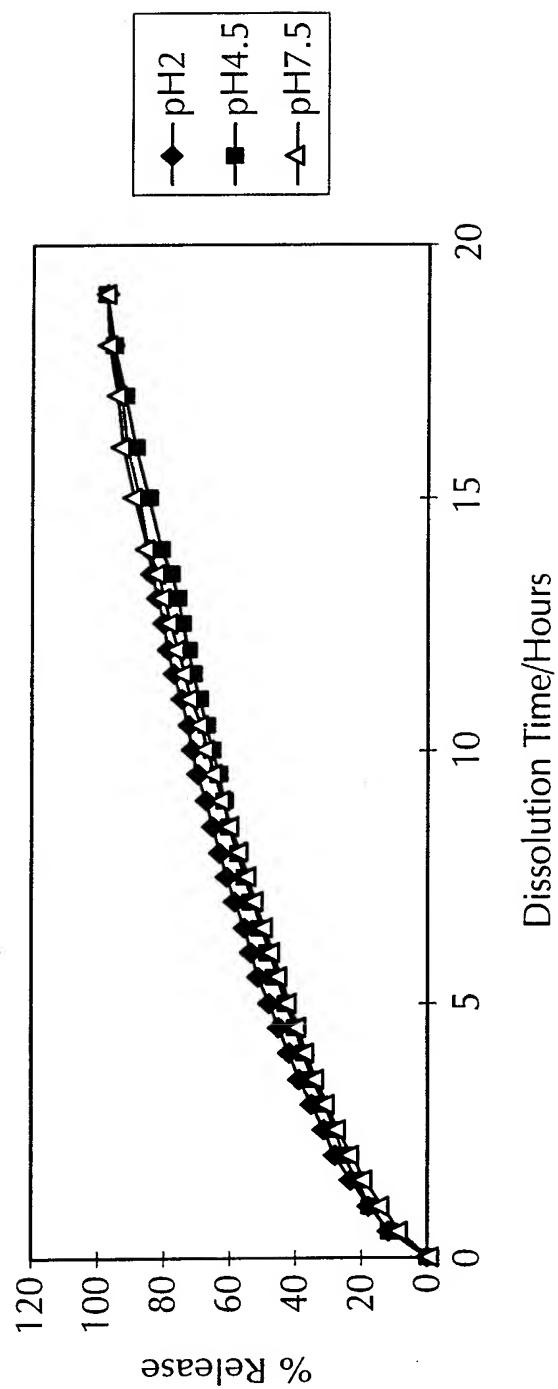


FIG. 1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IB 99/01619

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61K9/20 A61K31/505 A61K9/50

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>WO 97 18814 A (PFIZER RES & DEV ;PFIZER LTD (GB); PFIZER (US); MACRAE ROSS JAMES) 29 May 1997 (1997-05-29) cited in the application page 1, line 25-28 page 2, line 14-17 page 3, line 1-4 page 3, line 11-20 page 4, line 6,7 page 4, line 13-20 page 5, line 13-17 claims 1,2,6-8,12,14,16,25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/--</p>	1-4,7-9, 11-14,22

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

11 November 1999

18/11/1999

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Authorized officer

La Gaetana, R

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/IB 99/01619

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 98 30209 A (PFIZER PHARMA ; ITOH AKINORI (JP); NIWA TOSHIYUKI (JP); PFIZER (US)) 16 July 1998 (1998-07-16) page 1, line 5-8 page 2, line 9 -page 3, line 10 page 4, line 5 example 1 ----	1,4,5, 7-9,15, 21-30
A	WO 94 28902 A (PFIZER LTD ; PFIZER (US); PFIZER RES & DEV (IE); ELLIS PETER (GB)); 22 December 1994 (1994-12-22) cited in the application page 2, line 10-32 page 7, line 1-3 page 9, line 28-30 page 10, line 26-29 page 11, line 11 -page 12, line 4 * claim 5 (page 16, lines 12-14) * claims 6-11 ----	22-30
A	WO 97 03675 A (GLAXO WELLCOME LAB SA ; DAUGAN ALAIN CLAUDE MARIE (FR)) 6 February 1997 (1997-02-06) cited in the application page 1, line 3-5 page 3, line 24 -page 4, line 6 page 4, line 18-24 page 5, line 32-36 page 12, line 15 -page 15, line 7 claims 1,2,7 ----	22-30
A	WO 97 48382 A (KIMURA YUZO ; MUKAI TADASHI (JP); KOIKE MASAMI (JP); NAKAMURA TOSHI) 24 December 1997 (1997-12-24) page 1, line 2-18 page 2, line 16-25 page 4, line 22 -page 5, line 6 page 7, line 9-15 page 8, line 20 -page 9, line 3 ----	1,29,30
A	EP 0 393 572 A (RECORDATI CHEM PHARM) 24 October 1990 (1990-10-24) page 2, line 4-7 page 3, line 3-30 examples claims 1,2,5-7 -----	1,10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IB 99/01619

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:

because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

Remark: Although claims 24-28 are directed to a method of treatment
of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and
based on the alleged effects of the composition.

2. Claims Nos.:

because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such
an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:

because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all
searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment
of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report
covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is
restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/IB 99/01619

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Information on patent family members

International Application No

PL./IB 99/01619

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